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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/834,824	04/13/2001	Stan S. Feather	10004936-1	4306

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EXAMINER

CHANG, SUNRAY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2121

DATE MAILED: 12/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/834,824	FEATHER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Sunray Chang	2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 October 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 12 October 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in responsive to the paper filed on October 12th, 2004.

2. Claims 1 – 21 are presented for examination.

Claims 1 – 21 are rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. Claims 1 – 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over James F. McCarty et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,954,796, and referred to as McCarty hereinafter), in view of Pery Andrew Pearson (U.S. Patent No. 6,470,026, and referred to as Pearson hereinafter), and further in view of Neal D. Hartsell (U.S. Pub. No. US 2003/0236745, and referred to as Hartsell hereinafter).

(McCarty as set forth above generally discloses the basic inventions.)

4. Regarding independent claims 1, 7 and 19,

McCarty teaches, a method for changing address information utilized by a fibre channel controller, the fibre channel controller being associated with a port of a network device [a system and method for automatic dynamic loop address changing in a Fibre Channel environment, Col. 1, Line 10 – 11].

McCarty further teaches,

facilitating utilization of current address settings of a fibre channel controller for the network device [Since an initiator or driver must be able to manage the target device with which it is communicating, Col. 7, Line 49 – 51];

receiving, information corresponding to the desired address setting of the network device [While the AL_PA is dynamically assigned, Col. 7, Line 54];

storing information corresponding to the desired address setting of the network device [the initiator keeps track of an FC-specific identity triplet for the target device, Col. 7, Line 51 – 52];

replacing the current address setting [While the AL_PA is dynamically assigned upon a loop reset, Col. 7, Line 54 – 55] with the stored, desired address settings [updating responsive, Col. 2, Line 23 – 24] of the network device.

Enabling the operator. [initiator, Col. 7, Line 49]

For Node_Name and Port_Name can be used for device addressing subject matter, McCarty only discloses that the Node_Name and Port_Name are formed from

the device's unique World wide Name, but McCarty does not clearly disclose that the Node Name and Port Name can be used for device addressing.

Pearson teaches that the “Both the D_ID and the S_ID are 3-byte quantities that specify a three-part fabric address for a particular FC port”, and further, “single byte AL_PA is sufficient to uniquely address each node within the arbitrated loop” that Node Name and Port Name can be used for addressing, for the purpose of simplifying.

Hartsell teaches a graphical user interface [graphical user interface, 0290, Line 9] to display information to an operator [monitored parameters maybe displayed or otherwise communicated or recorded in any suitable manner, 0290, Line 5 – 7], for the purpose of getting a more efficient network connection.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify McCarty to use the Node Name or Port Name as an address as taught by Pearson for the purpose of getting a more efficient network connection.

4. **Regarding dependent claims 2 and 8**, McCarty teaches, determining [means, Col. 2, Line 23] whether to replace [update, Col. 2, Line 23] the current address setting [FC-specific information structure, Col. 2, Line 20] with the stored, desired address settings [updating responsive, Col. 2, Line 23 – 24] upon re-initialization of the fibre channel controller [reconfiguration of the FC environment, Col. 2, Line 24].

5. **Regarding dependent claim 3 and 9**, McCarty teaches, replacing the current address setting with the stored, desired address settings [the device come up onto an Arbitrated Loop upon a reset, Col. 7, Line 57 – 58] while the fibre channel controller is connected to a fabric topology [Soft Address scheme, the device does not care what AL_PA it is assigned, Col. 7, Line 60 – 61].

6. **Regarding dependent claim 4, 10, 18, and 21**, McCarty teaches, replacing the current address setting with the stored, desired address settings [the device come up onto an Arbitrated Loop upon a reset, Col. 7, Line 57 – 58] while the fibre channel controller is not connected to a fabric topology [Soft Address scheme, the device does not care what AL_PA it is assigned. Rather, it simply accepts the first free AL_PA available, Col. 7, Line 60 – 62].

7. **Regarding dependent claim 5 and 11**, McCarty teaches, determining [means, Col. 2, Line 23] whether to replace [update, Col. 2, Line 23] the current address setting [FC-specific information structure, Col. 2, Line 20] with the stored, desired address settings [updating responsive, Col. 2, Line 23 – 24] upon an operator [the system, Col. 2, Line 17] initiated reset [means for updating, Col. 2, Line 23] of the fibre channel controller [FC environment, Col. 2, Line 24].

8. **Regarding dependent claim 6 and 12**, McCarty teaches, determining [means, Col. 2, Line 23] whether to replace [update, Col. 2, Line 23] the current address setting

[FC-specific information structure, Col. 2, Line 20] with the stored, desired address settings [updating responsive, Col. 2, Line 23 – 24] upon a next power cycle [loop reset, 600, Fig. 6] of the fibre channel controller [FC environment, Col. 2, Line 24].

Further explanation, Applicants disclose, “whether the address setting information previously provided in block 806 is to be utilized upon a current board reset or upon a next power cycle (block 808) “. The “next power cycle can be interpreted to “reset”.

9. **Regarding dependent claim 13**, McCarty teaches, a control system configured to receive information corresponding to the desired address setting of the network device [While the AL_PA is dynamically assigned, Col. 7, Line 54], store information corresponding to the desired address setting of the network device [the initiator keeps track of an FC-specific identity triplet for the target device, Col. 7, Line 51 – 52], and replace the current address setting with the stored, desired address settings of the network device [While the AL_PA is dynamically assigned upon a loop reset, Col. 7, Line 54 – 55] such that a communication port associated with the network device may be recognized by the network as being associated with the current address [Once a connection is established, it can then deliver any class of service appropriate to the traffic between the two L_Ports, Col. 7, Line 27 – 29].

10. **Regarding dependent claim 14**, McCarty teaches, a communication port [Each L_Port, Col. 7, Line 21] configured to enable communication of the network device with other devices of a network [requests use of the loop when it needs to communicate with another port, Col. 7, Line 21 – 22], said communications ports [requesting port, Col. 7,

Line 23] being associated with the current address of the network device [sets up a bi-directional connection with the destination port, Col. 7, Line 23 – 24].

11. **Regarding dependent claim 15**, McCarty teaches, means for receiving information corresponding to the desired address setting of the network device [While the AL_PA is dynamically assigned, Col. 7, Line 54]; means for storing information corresponding to the desired address setting of the network device [the initiator keeps track of an FC-specific identity triplet for the target device, Col. 7, Line 51 – 52]; means for replacing the current address setting with the stored, desired address settings of the network device [While the AL_PA is dynamically assigned upon a loop reset, Col. 7, Line 54 – 55].

12. **Regarding dependent claim 16**, McCarty teaches, control system is implemented via a fibre channel controller, said fibre channel controller communicating with said communication port [the OS-compatible communication interface facilitates dynamic address changing of the FC device, which changing is transparent to the OS-compatible upper-level software structures, Col. 4, Line 18 – 21].

13. **Regarding dependent claim 17**, McCarty teaches, interface being configured [Fibre Channel Manager, Col. 8, Line 22] to enable receipt of information [responding device, Col. 8, Line 24] corresponding to the desired address setting of the network device [AL_PA assignment, Col. 8, Line 13];

McCarty does not teach a graphical user interface to display to an operator.

Hartsell teaches a graphical user interface [graphical user interface, 0290, Line 9] to display information to an operator [monitored parameters maybe displayed or otherwise communicated or recorded in any suitable manner, 0290, Line 5 – 7], for the purpose of getting a more efficient network connection.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teaching of McCarty to include "a graphical user interface to display to an operator", for the purpose of getting a more efficient network connection.

14. **Regarding dependent claim 20**, McCarty teaches, current address settings are to be replaced with the address settings [the device come up onto an Arbitrated Loop upon a reset, Col. 7, Line 57 – 58] even though the fibre channel controller is not presently connected to a fibre channel topology [Soft Address scheme, the device does not care what AL_PA it is assigned, Col. 7, Line 60 – 61].

McCarty does not teach a graphical user interface to display to an operator.

Hartsell teaches a graphical user interface [graphical user interface, 0290, Line 9] to display information to an operator [monitored parameters maybe displayed or

otherwise communicated or recorded in any suitable manner, 0290, Line 5 – 7], for the purpose of getting a more efficient network connection.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teaching of McCarty to include "a graphical user interface to display to an operator", for the purpose of getting a more efficient network connection.

Response to Amendment

Drawings

15. Applicants submit new drawings to replace Figures 1 – 3; Examiner has withdrawn the claim objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

16. Applicants' argument regarding "McCarty does not involve interaction of an operator" (Page 9, line 24) is agreed with. Yet, McCarty was not used for the rejection of this limitation. Hartsell teaches "a graphical user interface to display information to an operator" as set forth in Item 3 of the current office action.

17. Applicants' argument regarding "it appears that claims 4, 10, and 18 have been misinterpreted in the pending office action." (Page 10, lines 14 – 15) is agreed with. Yet, even changing the limitation back to "is not connected to a fibre channel topology" McCarty still can be used for this limitation. McCarty teaches "Soft Address scheme, the

device does not care what AL_PA it is assigned. Rather, it simply accepts the first free AL_PA available".

18. Applicants' argument regarding "the cited art does not teach or reasonably suggest at least the feathers/limitations emphasized above in claim 7" (Page 11, line 16 – 17) is respectfully disagreed with.

Assuming that applicants' assumption is correct, the two inventions are different, does not render the 35 USC §102 rejection to be in error. Under 35 USC §102, all that is required is for the reference to disclose the same limitation as applicant claims, and this, applicants agree with. Applicants argue features disclosed in the specification and not set forth in the claims. Features from the specification are not read into the claims and therefore, the rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

19. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the

advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

20. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sunray Chang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3682. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on (571) 272-3687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-746-3506.

Sunray Chang
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office



Anthony Knight
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600

December 1, 2004